States have been advised to set-up district committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification works.

The Government of India and also REC, the nodal agency for RGGVY, conduct frequent review meetings with the concerned State Governments and implementing agencies for expeditious implementation of the scheme as per agreed schedules.

*Source: As per progress report published by CEA, out of 15761 inhabited villages (2001 Census) 14534 villages have been electrified in Uttaranchal as on 31.5.2006.

Power projects based on coal

1441. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for development of Power Projects based on indigenous coal and imported coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the development work of Coastal Gujarat Power Ltd. for imported coal project at Mundra (Gujarat) has been taken up; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Identification of new sites and their execution is an ongoing exercise. At present, over 19,100 MW coal based capacity is under execution. Of this, only one project of 250 MW has been conceived to be developed using imported coal as fuel. Further, Ministry of Power through Power Finance Corporation is facilitating development of a few Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) of 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding route through shell companies. Central Electricity Authority has identified seven suitable sites for development of such projects, of which three are pithead and remaining four are coastal sites and projects located here have been envisaged to use imported coal as fuel.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Coastal Gujarat Power Limited (CGPL), the shell company for the Ultra Mega Project at Mundra in Gujarat, is tying up various inputs associated with development of the project. The timeline

for identification of successful bidder for this project has been set as December, 2006.

Closure of power projects for upgradation

1442. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some thermal and hydro power projects in the country particularly in Maharashtra are closed down in order to upgrade their capacity of power generation, which affects power generation heavily; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing necessary assistance to re-start these power projects with more capacity?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Thermal and Hydro Power Projects in the country are shut down when Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) / Life Extension (LE) and Upgrading (U) of the generating units are taken up and that effects the generation. At present no thermal unit is under shut down due to R&M/LE works in Maharashtra. Shut down of Nasik Thermal Power Station Unit 1&2 identified for LE works would be taken up in phased manner to ensure minimum disruption of generation from the power station.

(b) to expedite the implementation of R&M works, the Government is providing benefits under the Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP) for funding the identified R&M/LE schemes through Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation.

Supply of Naphtha for power projects

1443. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of power projects affected due to poor reserve of naphtha fuel;

(b) Government's reaction thereto;